



MILEPOST

GEORGIA

Includes CONNECTOR...of particular interest to GDOT employees

Spring/Summer 2014

New I-85/400 Flyover

Ramps offer relief for Buckhead community



Keeping Georgia's Waterways Clean

Meet GDOT's District Communications Officers

Stardina Wyche Holds GDOT History in her Hands



Commissioner's Column

The Road Ahead



The Department celebrated a long-awaited transportation project in May, with the opening of the new flyover ramps connecting Interstate 85 and Georgia 400. The ramps, pictured on the cover and featured in this issue, are expected to relieve congestion and significantly improve travel through and around the Buckhead community. The completed project represents another strong partnership between Georgia DOT's team of professionals, local governments and our contractors. *See the story on page 8.*

Additionally, Georgia DOT continues to support local governments through the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program, which this fiscal year allocated \$120 million. The Department received 585 applications for improvements on roads and bridges in cities and counties across the state. Over the past 10 years, the LMIG program and its predecessors (State Aid and Local Assistance Road Program) have awarded nearly \$950 million in grants to locals. *Read more about the LMIG program on page 4.*

While one of two severe winter storms left us somewhat bruised, the Department and the state recovered well thanks in large part to our statewide staff and the many partners who contributed to clearing interstates and state routes, removing debris and ensuring the safety of citizens and motorists. Governor Nathan Deal appeared before the State Transportation Board to share a "thank you" to GDOT staff on behalf of Georgians. *Read the Governor's comments on page 2.*

Finally, Congress continues to discuss the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) that faces a shortfall this summer, as well as long-term reauthorization of the surface transportation bill (MAP-21) that ends on September 30. Until Congress provides some certainty about the future of federal transportation funding, starting July 1, GDOT will authorize few, if any, federal aid projects. Projects already under construction should not be affected. The Department remains focused on our core business; and our legislative staff and senior leadership will continue to monitor and report progress on funding legislation as information becomes available. So, stay tuned.

Keith Golden, P.E.

GEORGIA MILEPOST

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Contents

- 2 Across the Board
- 4 GDOT reorganizes Districts
LMIG. The focus is local
- 5 Georgia highway fatalities down
- 6 GDOT Briefs
- 8 Interstate 85, Georgia 400 Flyover ramps open
- 12 GDOT TidBits
- 13 Keeping Georgia's waterways clean
- 14 Meet GDOT's District Communications Officers
- 15 **CONNECTOR** News for and about Employees of Georgia Department of Transportation
Letters of Praise
- 18 Stardina Wyche holds GDOT history in her hands
- 19 Employee Advocacy Team
- 20 Above & Beyond: Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence
- 21 Our GDOT Challenge Winners!
- 22 Connector Shorts
- 23 Retirees and Service Anniversaries



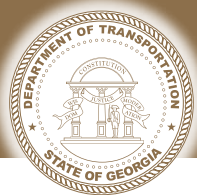
What is TravelSmart?

Georgia DOT is engaged in all aspects of mobility. In addition to roads and bridges, we're involved in public transit, general aviation, rail, waterways, and bike and pedestrian programs.

To reflect the larger picture, we've launched TravelSmart - GDOT's umbrella of transportation services and programs. TravelSmart embodies GDOT's approach to applying innovative engineering, customer-friendly design and cost-effective solutions to all facets of our transportation system.

The TravelSmart tag is a reminder that Georgia DOT works to keep Georgia moving - on all modes of transportation and in all parts of Georgia.

On the cover: Representatives of the I-85/GA 400 project management team showcase the just-opened ramps.



ACROSS THE BOARD

Moody, Grantham Re-Elected to STB



Former State Senator **Dan Moody** of Johns Creek and former Augusta/Richmond County Commissioner **Don Grantham** were re-elected to five-year terms on the State Transportation Board (STB). Moody, representing the Sixth Congressional District, and Grantham, representing the 12th Congressional

District, were each affirmed by a caucus of Georgia General Assembly members from their respective congressional district.

Moody serves as chair of the STB's Communications Committee, and is a member of the Legislative, Intermodal and Program Delivery/Consultant Services committees.

He served in the State Senate for eight years (2002-2010) before retiring from that body. He was elected to the STB a year ago to fill a vacant seat. Moody is an electrical engineer, businessman and a retired United States Army Reserves officer.

"It is an honor to be chosen to represent the residents of the 6th Congressional District on the Board. A solid transportation system is key to the quality of life for those that not only reside in my district, but who use it to reach the many employment centers offered in the metro area," Moody said.



Grantham is vice chairman of the State Transportation Board, chairs the Finance Committee, and serves on six other committees.

He served on the Augusta/Richmond County Commission for seven years (2003-2010). He was previously elected to the STB to complete three years left on a vacated

seat. Grantham, an Augusta native and businessman, has an extensive history of community and civic activities.

"I am excited to begin my first full-term on the Board, and know how important leadership is as we continue to build a transportation system for the future," Grantham said to caucus members. "I am especially pleased to be representing some areas that approved the Transportation Investment Act referendum."

The 14-member State Transportation Board determines policy and generally governs Georgia DOT. Each member is elected by a caucus of Georgia General Assembly members from their specific congressional district. Board members serve staggered five-year terms.

Gov. Deal addresses employees at Board Meeting

"...on behalf of the citizens of the State of Georgia, thank you for a job well done."



Photo: CEDRIC MOHR cmohr@dot.ga.gov

A special guest was on hand at February's STB meeting. Governor Nathan Deal came by to personally thank Georgia DOT employees for their efforts during the January and February winter storms.

"In the recent inclement weather crises...you have responded under difficult circumstances," Deal told employees in the audience and those who watched the district feed. "You have worked long hours. You have worked under difficult conditions. The response I'm receiving from the last storm we had is exceptional. I think we have, in fact, set a model for the rest of the country."

Board Resolution Commends Employees for Winter Weather Response

The resolution honors employees for their "tireless service," "unwavering commitment" and "vital contributions" to the state and its citizens during the unparalleled winter weather events the weeks of January 27 and February 20, 2014. It specifically recognizes the Office of Maintenance, Transportation Management Center, GDOT District Offices, and Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs).



Governor Deal and GDOT employees join Director of Operations Meg Pirkle and State Maintenance Engineer Dale Brantley, as they accept a Board resolution from Chairman Jay Shaw at the February STB meeting.

Getting personal with State Transportation Board Vice Chairman Don Grantham

By Liz Rothman



Photo: CEDRIC MOHR cmohr@dot.ga.gov

When you meet State Transportation Board Vice Chair **Don Grantham**, the impressions are stunning. There's the broad smile, the warm handshake, the relaxed and confident—yet unassuming—demeanor.

The afternoon of our talk, Mr. Grantham, who has served for three years on the STB, was looking forward to a vote at the Capitol that would elect him to five more years. He got it.

Grantham represents east central Georgia's Congressional District 12, including Richmond County and the city of Augusta. The native Augustan is president and CEO of Forest Sales Corporation. He was an Augusta/Richmond County Commissioner for seven years and served 12 years on the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA). His extensive community and civic activities range from university and museum boards to over 35 years on the Boy Scouts of America Advisory Board of Augusta. *Georgia Trend* named him one of the most influential Georgians. He has served or known every governor from Jimmy Carter to Nathan Deal.

Despite his resume, Grantham is humble - a man of faith and family. "When I play golf on Sundays, it's always after church," he says with a twinkle in his eye.

Early years Grantham has lived in Augusta all his life. He attended Furman University (SC) on a football scholarship; then graduated in finance from University of Georgia. His background is modest. *While I considered a career in investment banking or law, further study was unaffordable. I worked seven years for Georgia Pacific. In 1968 a friend and I started Forest Sales Corp., a wholesale lumber company.*

Road to the STB When longtime friend, Bill Kuhlke, retired from the Board mid-term, Grantham was encouraged to seek the opportunity to fill the seat. He was interested. *Being on the engineering*

services committee as a county commissioner gave me an opportunity to interact with the DOT. This position is elected by delegates from your own congressional district, so you have to do a little politicking. They put their confidence in you and they want someone who can perform.

Role of the STB *We are a supporting unit of GDOT staff, the governor and state officials. We are a sounding board; we discuss issues with our constituents. We contact congressional leaders in D.C. to make sure we have the financial support of the federal government.*

TIA, ports & storms Grantham's region includes 13 counties that voted for the TIA program. *I call it the People's Bill. They voted for it, they pay for it and they identified the projects. Even in the second year, TIA has had a positive impact. We're showing we mean business. We do what we say and we spend the people's money wisely.*

Then-Gov. Jimmy Carter originally appointed Grantham to the GPA board in 1972. *I was a very young man. The GPA exposed me to things I had never envisioned. I realized that Georgia was a Cinderella state that would be recognized in the future for water transportation and for international growth. Take the dredging of the Port of Savannah channel - Gov. Deal has made a concentrated effort to make it happen, and I am optimistic that it will. Current vessels carry 4,500 containers. Soon they will carry double that amount. GDOT and GPA are working to ensure that critical infrastructure is in place to move the additional cargo into and out of the Port.*

At the peak of the February winter storm, 85 percent of households in the Augusta area had no power. *You can't imagine the cooperation - from the utility companies and the community. People were out with chain saws removing fallen trees. Our District Engineer Jimmy Smith and GDOT did an outstanding job. I appreciate the help from GDOT's Jesup and Tifton offices. We take so much for granted. When we're without, we go into a kind of shock. With everyone pulling together, it made things easier.*

What he wants us to know *When people think of GDOT, they think of big urban projects. But we are just as conscientious about the rural areas and small projects. And while each board member represents a district, we don't concentrate on one area. Our focus is statewide. Commissioner Golden and the team under his leadership are one of the very best we've ever had. I also want to say that I am always available. I respond as quickly as I can to every call. To every issue. To employees and to the public.*

Life's joys *I enjoy golf. I'm an average golfer...I was good at one time. I also have a little farm in Grovetown. It has a fishing pond. I like to go there. It provides me with a different view of life.*

I'm married to a fine lady, Carol. We have two wonderful children and four terrific grandchildren. I have good friends; some are lifelong. I've been able to live in the city where I was born, to contribute to that city and to see results. My accomplishments are rewarding and the honors are nice. But my faith and family are more rewarding than anything else.

GDOT Realigns Districts for Better Efficiency, Cost Savings

By Carla Murphy

Georgia DOT recently announced plans to realign its Area Offices statewide, creating opportunities for better efficiency. The plan follows an extensive review of district-level operations and resources and was developed using principles typically associated with the private industry. With the realignment, GDOT is consolidating maintenance and construction offices in all seven of its Districts for better use of equipment and personnel; to operate with fewer managers who have broader responsibility; and to reduce capital, operations and maintenance costs. The new approach comes as the Department has experienced a 37 percent reduction in field construction staffing and a 30 percent reduction in field maintenance staffing. Additionally, GDOT has experienced a 75 percent reduction in annual new hires and fewer dollars for equipment and capital expenses.

Under the plan developed by District 1 Engineer and Director of Field Services Bayne Smith, in collaboration with other district engineers, the seven districts will see a reduction in the number of area offices. Thus far, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 6 have been realigned, resulting in the consolidation of offices. For example, D1 was reduced from six to four area offices in Athens, Carnesville, Cleveland and Gainesville. The reorganization of the three remaining districts is pending. “I am excited to see that aspects of this realignment plan are already being implemented with positive results,” said STB Chair Jay Shaw. “I know that the Department, and the people of Georgia, will see more value from work being done with better utilization of crews and equipment. We will continue working on this consolidation effort and look forward to seeing full results in the future.”

Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG)

The focus is local

By Liz Rothman

Georgia DOT is committed to assisting cities and counties in upgrading and improving their local roads and bridges.

GDOT’s **Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program** allows local governments (LGs) to receive grants for projects that they determine would be the most beneficial to their communities. Funds are for improvements on roads and bridges within county, city or state rights-of-way. Eligible projects primarily relate to safety, economic development and maintenance, with specific activities including preliminary engineering; utility adjustments; patching, leveling and resurfacing; intersection improvements; signage, striping and guardrails; traffic signals; bridge repair; and more.

The LMIG numbers. For FY 2014, GDOT received 585 applications representing 99 percent of the \$120 million allocated for the program. In the past decade, through the LMIG program (and its predecessors - the State Aid and the Local Assistance Road [LARP] programs), Georgia DOT has given cities and counties nearly \$950 million to enhance local mobility. Georgia DOT annually notifies local governments to submit their grant requests. LMIG funding—allocated each fiscal year—is between 10 and 20 percent of the revenue collected from state motor fuel taxes in the preceding year. Project grants are distributed by a formula based on population and local road mileage. LGs must provide a match (30 percent for regions that did not pass the Transportation Investment Act [TIA] referendum; 10 percent for regions that did). The application deadline for FY 2015 is January 1, 2015. For details on the LMIG Program, visit www.dot.ga.gov/LMIG.



Toward Zero Deaths

GEORGIA HIGHWAY FATALITIES DOWN FOR 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

By Liz Rothman

Fatalities on Georgia highways fell in 2013, the eighth straight year traffic crash deaths have declined. Last year 1,186 persons were killed as a result of crashes on state roads. That is 13 less than in 2012 and 32 percent less than the 2005 high of 1,748. The state also recorded declines in fatalities among motorcyclists (down 21 to a total of 110) and those on local streets (down 34 to 523). “Though progress is being made, we must remember that these numbers represent real people - people who should be going home to their families at the end of the day,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden noted. “One death is one too many.”



GDOT and the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) employ an array of efforts to improve highway safety and reduce fatalities, injuries and crashes. GDOT’s efforts include roundabout intersections, center median cable barriers, rumble strips, reflective signage and striping, traffic signal synchronization and more pedestrian accommodations. Harris Blackwood, director of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, lists other factors contributing to the trend including: - Increased use of seat belts (per state law). A study conducted by the University of Georgia for GOHS showed 95 percent of motorists on Georgia roads are using seat belts.

-More parents securing their children in child passenger safety seats (per state law). This includes a greater number of 6- and 7-year-olds in booster seats. -High-visibility traffic enforcement. The GOHS, in partnership with the Georgia State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies, has conducted campaigns in a number of areas across the state. -The graduated driver’s license that has resulted in fewer 16-year-olds getting their licenses - more are waiting until age 17. Of continued concern are fatalities for bicyclists, which increased from 19 to 26 and for pedestrians - up 11 to 178. Georgia DOT’s “Complete Streets” policy, put in place in 2012, is aimed in part to help reduce these incidents. “Complete Streets is a long-term, broad initiative to design and build our transportation infrastructure in a way that best serves all users, be they drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians,” GDOT Chief Engineer Russell McMurtry said. “Growing segments of the population using our system, especially in metropolitan areas, are cyclists and walkers. The system must accommodate and protect them.”

No Distracted Driving

Whether it’s driving and texting or driving and talking on the phone – they just don’t mix. Every time a driver takes their focus off the road—even for a moment—they put their lives and the lives of others in danger. Each state has different distracted driving laws.

GEORGIA LAWS ARE:
NO texting – all drivers
NO cell phone (hand-held or hands-free) - drivers under age 18 (and bus drivers)





Marlo Clowers, senior project manager in the Office of Innovative Delivery, was named **Transportation Professional of the Year** by the **Georgia**

Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). She was recognized for her significant contributions to the transportation field, and to the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in Georgia. Clowers, a licensed professional engineer, received a bachelor of civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1996 and began working for GDOT the same year.

Pleasant Hill Rd over I-85 DDI—the first eight-lane diverging diamond interchange (DDI) of its kind in the United States — received the 2014 Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia). It was also named winner in the innovative solutions category in preconstruction design by the Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality.

And the Blinkie goes to...Georgia DOT's State Traffic Engineer **Kathy Zahul** and Commissioner **Keith Golden** accepted a Blinkie Award from the **Atlanta Bicycle Coalition (ABC)**. GDOT was named as **Bike-Friendly Agency Staff** for building buffered bicycle lanes into the Ponce de Leon safety project. The award also acknowledges Zahul's approach to targeting state safety funds to benefit all. The annual awards recognize people and projects that contribute to the city's progress toward becoming a bicycle-friendly community.

Georgia DOT recently hosted transportation officials from China's Liaoning Province, sharing information ranging from GDOT's planning process to design policies. Eighteen officials joined Deputy Commissioner Todd Long, State Research Engineer Georgene Geary and other staff. The group, representing academia and government, was escorted by State Representative Gerald Greene. In selecting the state to visit, officials cited Georgia's quality roads and GDOT's reputation for innovation.

Reorganize, merge, promote. GDOT has formed a new division. **P3/Program Delivery** consists of the offices of Program Delivery, Program Control, and Innovative Delivery (which is the merger of offices of P3 and Innovative Program Delivery). **Joe Carpenter** was named director and **Genetha Rice-Singleton** was named assistant director of the new division.



Carpenter, GDOT's former division director of engineering, is in his second year with the Department. He has a lifetime of transportation engineering experience with the Tennessee and Texas DOTs, and in the private sector. Carpenter has a bachelor's in civil engineering from University of Arkansas and is a licensed professional engineer.

Rice-Singleton, a 27-year GDOT veteran, is former state program delivery engineer. Under her leadership, the Office of Program Delivery was reorganized; the issues management log implemented; and risk management begun. Prior to that, she was administrator of the Office of Program Control. Rice-Singleton has worked on numerous notable projects, including design of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes for the 1996 Olympic Games. The South Carolina native has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from South Carolina State University.



Glenn Bowman replaces Carpenter as director of engineering. Most recently he was administrator of the Office of Environmental Services.

Prior to that he was the assistant to the chief engineer and held various positions in the Office of Urban Design up to assistant office head. Bowman has been with GDOT for 25 years. He has a bachelor's in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and is a licensed professional engineer.



Hiral Patel replaces Bowman as administrator of the Office of Environmental Services. She is a licensed professional

engineer with a bachelor's in civil engineering. Most recently she was an assistant office head in Program Delivery. Prior to that, Patel held various positions in District Construction. She has been with GDOT for 18 years.



Albert Shelby replaces Rice-Singleton as administrator of the Office of Program Delivery. He has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology

from Southern Polytechnic State University. He has been with GDOT for 15 years. Most recently he was an assistant office head in Program Delivery. Prior to that, he held various positions in Roadway Design.

Remembering Herb Emory

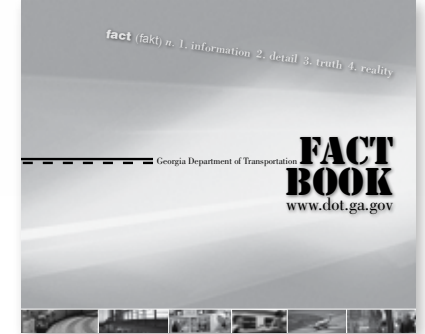
Georgia Department of Transportation mourns the passing of Herb Emory. Captain Herb was a trusted and endearing

voice for thousands of metro Atlanta drivers, and was a great friend and advisor to GDOT. He will be missed.



Georgia DOT's **Fact Book** and fall/winter **Milepost** are winners in **Graphic Design USA's 2014 American Inhouse Design Awards**. Office

of Communications Creative Services Project Manager **Cedric Mohr** designed the pieces. The national competition - in its ninth year - showcases work by in-house graphic designers, recognizing their talent, the special challenges they face and the value they bring to their corporations and institutions. From more than 4,000 submissions, a highly selective 15 percent received an Award of Excellence.

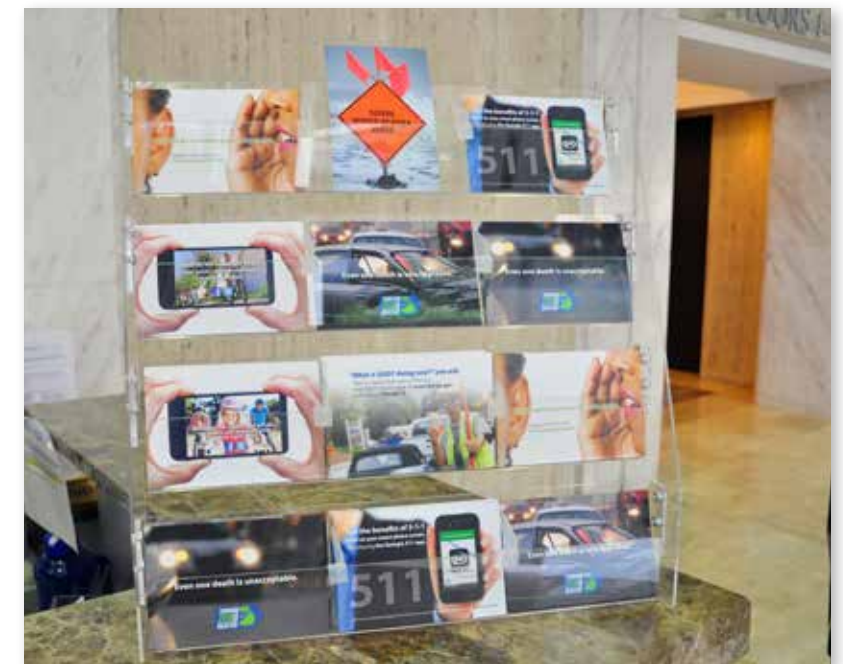


2014 Reference Guide. This pocket guide to Georgia DOT is now available. With contacts, stats and financial info, as well as key fast facts on planning, operations, maintenance and more. Download from <http://bit.ly/GDOT-RG>.

Take One Please!

Department Launches First-Ever Postcard Campaign

The Communications Office launched its first-ever postcard marketing campaign this year in support of several Georgia DOT initiatives. The postcards featured information about the Department's Facebook page, one of several tools used to deliver important information to the public and to GDOT partners. The postcard campaign focused on the Quick Fix program; winter weather preparedness; GDOT's Toward Zero Deaths initiative; launch of the 511 app and GDOT's new "projects" Webpage. Cards were mailed to area churches, local government offices and made available to the general public. The campaign is ongoing and represents one of several public outreach efforts initiated by the Office of Communications.



Much-anticipated project expected to reduce traffic on Buckhead streets

Interstate 85, Georgia 400 Northbound Flyover Ramps Open

By Mark McKimmon

The long-anticipated flyover ramps connecting Interstate 85 to Georgia State Route 400 opened in April, providing direct north and southbound access to thousands of motorists who live and work along the two heavily-traveled corridors. The ramps connect I-85 south to GA 400 north and GA 400 south to I-85 north in Buckhead. The \$21.4 million project – funded by bonds backed with former GA 400 toll collections – provides much-needed northbound connectivity from highway to highway. Currently, more than 90,000 vehicles travel southbound on I-85 daily; and

more than 60,000 travel on GA 400 southbound. More than 32,000 vehicles are expected to use the new ramps every day, with that number increasing to nearly 40,000 by 2035. In a ceremony announcing the opening of the ramps, Governor Nathan Deal, State Transportation Board Member Stacey Key, Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden and former Atlanta Mayor and Buckhead Coalition founder and president Sam Massell, lauded the project and emphasized its importance to surrounding Buckhead neighborhoods and businesses.

"This project is going to help make an already great place to live and work even greater," said Governor Deal. "It is important for government to keep its promises. We kept our promise to end the tolls on Georgia 400 and we still managed to work together to construct this wonderful project and several more on this corridor..." For years, motorists looking for northbound access from I-85 to GA 400, clogged neighborhood streets – Lenox Road, Cheshire Bridge Road, Sidney Marcus Boulevard, Buford Highway. In praising the project's completion, Massell cited the congestion in and

around the area and the more than two decades the Buckhead community has lobbied for it. *"I think we have come full circle now in Buckhead on this - from dreaming it and advocating for more than 25 years to being here today opening it," Massell said during the ceremony. "It is a wonderful accomplishment and will mean so much, not just to motorists on these two roads, but to the thousands and thousands of us who live and work in Buckhead and travel its streets each day."*

"Part of our mission at GDOT is to implement transportation solutions that improve the quality of life for all Georgians..."

These new ramps will take pressure off of some of Atlanta's most congested streets, which should vastly improve the mobility of those who live and work in that area."

Stacey Key
5th Congressional District Transportation Board member

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon. From left, Fulton County Commissioner Liz Hausmann; State Senator Brandon Beach; Buckhead Coalition President and former Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell; Governor Nathan Deal; State Transportation Board Member Stacey Key; State Representative Edward Lindsey; GDOT Commissioner Keith Golden

"Part of our mission at GDOT is to implement transportation solutions that improve the quality of life for all Georgians," said 5th Congressional District Transportation Board member Stacey Key. "I am excited about the impact of this project on the citizens who live in the Georgia 400/I-85 corridor. These new ramps will take pressure off of some of Atlanta's most congested streets, which should vastly improve the mobility of those who live and work in that area. If we can shorten the daily commute for the people we serve, that is always a good thing."

The flyover ramps were constructed as part of GDOT's Design/Build program, in which two phases of work are combined into a

single contract to expedite completion. Design began in summer 2011 and construction began the following February.

"Transportation projects are the result of ongoing collaboration and coordination among many entities. These include transportation professionals as well as partners and stakeholders like local governments and communities," noted Commissioner Keith Golden. "The opening of these ramps is indicative of how collaboration and communication can shape a vital project and result in a successful endeavor that benefits everyone."

"The opening of these ramps is indicative of how collaboration and communication can shape a vital project and result in a successful endeavor that benefits everyone."

Keith Golden, GDOT Commissioner



GDOT Commissioner Keith Golden; STB Member Stacey Key; Gov. Nathan Deal

Representatives of the project management team, from left: Loren Bartlett, Innovative Delivery Project Manager, GDOT; Teresa Hartle, Bridge Design Engineer II, GDOT; Valerie Sanders, Inspector II, Khafra/Moreland Altobelli; Shane Swan, Project Manager, HNTB; Jason O'Daniels, Bridge Design Engineer II, GDOT; Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer, GDOT; Lenaldo Hampton, Engineer Tech I, GDOT; Xavier James, Program Delivery Project Manager, GDOT; Shun Pringle, District 7 Construction Engineer, GDOT; Herb Forrester, Project Manager, Moreland Altobelli; Johnson Orishaniyi, Inspector II, Moreland Altobelli

GDOT TidBits

Bike friendly Georgia communities.

Six Georgia locales were named by the League of American Bicyclists to their 2013 **Bicycle Friendly Communities** list. Jekyll Island, Savannah, Athens-Clarke County, Decatur, Roswell and Tybee Island were recognized for enhancing the contributions bicycling makes to economic, social, health and environmental benefits. The League of American Bicyclists works through advocacy and education to make communities more bike friendly.

Your new (free) must-have app!

You know **Georgia-Navigator 511**—GDOT’s statewide 24/7 real-time traffic information system—is the place to go by phone or on the Web for info about incidents, construction, trip times and more. Now, with the **Georgia 511 app**, it’s even easier to plan your drive. Download it free from iTunes or Google Play Store (search Georgia 511).

GDOT’s (free) 511 phone service tops 9 million calls.

In just over six years, **511** has received over 9 million calls about traffic, incidents, road work, weather conditions and an assortment of travel-related inquiries throughout Georgia. Or for HERO service requests on freeways in metro Atlanta. When you call 511, you can transfer to a live operator at anytime for assistance. For information, visit www.511ga.org or dial 5-1-1.

Everything you want to know about the TIA process. And then some.

The 2014 **TIA Manual** is a complete start-to-finish reference guide to how TIA projects work, including contractor requirements, reporting and invoicing. It’s also a great resource for abbreviations, definitions and links to other reference documents like design manuals. See it on the TIA website at www.ga-tia.com.

Glad Georgia didn’t make this Top 10!

The worst drivers in the country are in Louisiana according to a survey by CarInsuranceComparison.com, a website that compares features of automobile insurance companies. Rounding out the top 10 are South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Missouri and North Carolina (tie), Montana, and North Dakota. Georgia comes in at No. 14.

Surplus property for sale.

Sometimes land (and residential or commercial structures) that GDOT purchases for right-of-way goes unused due to changes in project construction plans. For information about buying surplus property, visit www.gdotland.com.

GDOT pays tribute to workers who have died in work zones.

“**Work Zone Speeding: A Costly Mistake**” was the theme of April’s **National Work Zone Safety Awareness**

Week. The theme focuses on work zone dangers for the traveling public, as well as for workers. At GDOT’s observance, Commissioner Keith Golden was joined by William Farr, FHWA Georgia District deputy administrator; David Moellering, Georgia Highway Contractors Association executive director; Harris Blackwood, Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety director; and Bill Bronrott, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration deputy administrator. GDOT Construction Engineer Mark Mastronardi made the introductions. A HERO unit was also present.

Highway workers put their lives in danger every day. While eliminating distractions is

good advice for all driving situations, speakers emphasized that when approaching a work zone motorists must also slow down and comply with the Move Over law.

Since record keeping began in 1973, 57 Georgia DOT employees have died in work zone incidents.

Property damage collections triple the expected amount.

An initiative to recover money for damages to state property resulting from crashes is far exceeding expectations - after six months more than \$1 million was recovered. Damages to state property like signs, guardrails, and bridge supports can add up to more than \$10 million annually. GDOT Deputy Commissioner Todd Long is pleased with the initial results of collections through a partnership with Claims Management Resources, Inc. The company negotiates with drivers and their insurance companies. Long says the department is on track to recover between \$3 and \$4 million in the first year of the partnership. The program operates at no cost to Georgia taxpayers.

Spring Street Viaduct replacement.

After faithfully serving as the gateway to downtown Atlanta for 92 years, the structurally deficient **Spring Street Viaduct** is being replaced. The bridge over the CSX railroad is located on Spring Street between Mitchell and Marietta streets, and includes Martin Luther King Jr. Drive between Forsyth and Spring streets. Extensive utility relocations are underway. Reconstruction will require two City of Atlanta-designated detours. The first detour, located at the southern end of the project, will be announced this summer and put in place in the fall; the second, northern phase detour will follow a year later. Anticipated completion of the new viaduct is November 2016. For details, visit www.dot.ga.gov/springstreetdetours.

Preventing pollution from stormwater runoff.

Keeping Georgia’s Waterways Clean

By Rick Parham

While constructing and maintaining Georgia’s highways and bridges are core functions of Georgia DOT, we also protect the integrity of the air, wildlife, flora/fauna, and water environs.

In addition to activities we normally employ as environmental stewards, a federal **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** permit also guides GDOT’s activities to protect waterways from stormwater pollution.

“**Stormwater is the flow of water that enters our streams, lakes and rivers after rain storms,**” explains Brad McManus, design group manager in GDOT’s Office of Design Policy and Support. “**These waters can easily carry harmful roadway pollutants and debris into our waterways.**”

The MS4 permit requires that Georgia DOT prevent excessive stormwater discharges, dumping, spills, erosion and pollutants

from contaminating waterways. Prevention efforts include training construction and maintenance crews in pollution detection, removal and mitigation. In addition, efforts have been stepped-up on active construction sites and for post-construction stormwater management. McManus reports that issues have been resolved in at least four areas of the state where illegal discharge and dumping were identified.

Georgia DOT’s MS4 effort includes educating the public about the impacts of stormwater runoff on waterways, and the simple actions individuals can take to prevent pollution. For example - proper disposal of pet waste (bag it and throw in trash) and recycling motor oil.

Find out how you can keep pollutants out of our waterways. For information and to report stormwater pollution on state routes, visit www.dot.ga.gov/stormwater.

Keeping you in the know. And on the go.

GDOT District Communications Officers

By Liz Rothman

In addition to Georgia DOT's general offices in downtown Atlanta, Georgia's seven transportation districts operate and maintain the state transportation system at a local level. Each has a spokesperson—a district

Teri Pope – D1/Northeast

Teri and her high school sweetheart Kenny celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this year. They are members of Blackshear Place Baptist Church in Flowery Branch where Teri gets great joy in serving in the student ministry. Teri joined GDOT in 1999. *"As a native of Gainesville, I enjoy helping people in Northeast Georgia understand transportation planning, construction and maintenance."*
tpope@dot.ga.gov • www.facebook.com/GDOTNE
https://twitter.com/GDOTNE

Cissy McNure – D2/East Central

Transportation is a family affair for Cissy – she's been with GDOT 19 years and husband Roger is a retired railroad maintenance of way supervisor. They've lived in rural Washington County for 20 years (so rural - there's no cell phone service!). They have four adult children and two grandchildren. She enjoys reading, thrift shopping and traveling. *"I like helping to keep my fellow Georgians safe by making them aware of what's happening on our roadways."*
gmcnure@dot.ga.gov • www.facebook.com/georgiadot.east

Kimberly Larson – D3/West Central

Kimberly lives in the moment. The North Georgia College and Hawaii Pacific University graduate has been with GDOT for seven years. Kimberly and her son live in Thomaston where they love spending time together outdoors - hunting, fishing and gardening. *"Every day is different in transportation. From routine maintenance, to new projects, to working with film producers to general public concerns and yes, even weather events; it's never dull."*
klarson@dot.ga.gov • https://twitter.com/GDOTWest

Nita Birmingham – D4/Southwest

Nita is a "proud Army brat" who loves meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. This veteran newspaper reporter has a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Georgia. She's also a dog person ("cats are too aloof"). Nita joined GDOT in December 2013 and lives in Tifton. *"I enjoy learning about SW Georgia and the nuts and bolts of road and bridge construction."*
jbirmingham@dot.ga.gov

communications officer (DCO)—who provides essential transportation information to the community, the media and local officials. These professionals ensure a timely, clear and accurate message.

Jill Nagel – D5/Southeast

Jill has worked in public relations and communications for over 12 years, including three with Georgia DOT. The Georgia native lives in Waycross with her family, where they love exploring the historical sites and cultural fairs of the Coastal Region. *"I enjoy working with the media and communities of Southeast Georgia, keeping them informed of roadway conditions pertaining to travel safety and convenience."*
jnagel@dot.ga.gov • www.facebook.com/GDOTSE
https://twitter.com/GeorgiaDOTSE

Mohamed Arafa – D6/Northwest

Mohamed, an "Egyptian by birth, American by choice," has been with Georgia DOT for 15 years. He has a Ph.D. in culture and communications from University of Virginia, and an MA and BA in journalism from University of Cairo. Mohamed, his wife and daughters live in Cobb County. *"Following several years of teaching communications in college, I enjoy the challenge of practicing what I preached!"*
marafa@dot.ga.gov • https://www.facebook.com/pages/Georgia-DOT-Northwest • https://twitter.com/GDOTNW

Mark McKinnon – D7/Metro Atlanta

Mark has a BA in journalism from Georgia State University and has been with GDOT for 14 years. He lives in Bethlehem with his wife, Wendy, and their three sons. Mark sings and plays guitar, and is working toward a black belt in karate. *"In every interview my goal is to highlight the great work our employees do for the traveling public."*
mmckinnon@dot.ga.gov



Editor's note: At press time, Mark announced he is leaving GDOT for a new challenge at Georgia Department of Natural Resources. We wish him well!

CONNECTOR

News for and about Employees of Georgia Department of Transportation

Letters of Praise

Good morning...We live in Villa Rica... I am needing to report a **rotten dead tree** that has fallen onto the I-20 West side fence that borders our property with the DOT right of way. I have removed as much of the dead tree debris as I can on our private property side, but the position of the tree leaning on the state easement fence has created a danger, to our family and animals. The tree is located in the back left portion, of our property. If you could please send a crew or someone out to remove the danger from continuing to fall through the fence onto our property even more.
Thank you.

C. Bradford

*Editor's Note: GDOT's Carroll County crew includes **Ronald Brown, Robert Smith, Kenneth Casey and Melvin Timms.** They were **out the following day** to remove the tree. The homeowner was pleased. "Thank you very much for the expedited reply and action into this request," he wrote.*

Once again, God has allowed me to meet a couple of real **"south Georgia heroes"**!

This morning, I left our...farm to make an early morning trip to Camilla with some pecan samples. Since my mother and I had appointments in Moultrie at 9 a.m., I asked her to ride with me in hopes that we could make our appointments on time. Right after we passed Pebble City, we had a blowout! There was not much shoulder on the road, but I got off the pavement as much as I could...I knew that I would not be able to change the tire and was about to call...when a couple of heroes, **Andrew Pearce and Richard Taylor**, arrived on the scene.

They were in a Georgia Department of Transportation truck from Albany DOT, but as far as I'm concerned, they were wearing wings! ... Andrew quickly got out my spare and the dinky little jack that came with the car. He got right down on the edge of the pavement and, using those crude tools, got the spare on and everything back in the car.

I praise God that mama and I were uninjured in the blowout, and cannot say enough about Andrew and Richard — two wonderful men who went **completely out of their way to help** two old women in need. I hope my "heroes" are reading this ... and I hope their employers are, too, because they have some real winners working for them!

I hope they'll search Andrew and Richard out and give them a hearty raise and a much deserved pat on the back! Thank you for your wisdom in hiring such fine men!

R. Green, Doerun

*Editor's note: This is a condensed version of a letter to the editor that appeared in the **Albany Herald**. **Richard Taylor** is Assistant Highway Maintenance Foreman and **Andrew Pearce** is Equipment Operator 1. Both are from District 4.*

This past weekend my 10 year old granddaughter and I were traveling thru Atlanta and had a blow out on 285 Perimeter 5.9 miles from 85. We were in the left hand lane and thankfully able to cross thru traffic to get to the edge of the road. Both of us were scared to death. I called my cousin... in Buford and he told me about the "Hero" assistance. I called the 511 # and was assisted on the phone very promptly. I expected to be sitting beside the road for several hours, but was **back on the road within one hour**. The Gentleman that helped us was very respectful and polite. He stated that you do not charge and I wanted to tip him and he said no. I just wanted to let you know. I do not know his name but his badge # was 585. THANKS SO MUCH FOR WHAT YA'LL DO!!!!

D. Crabtree

*Editor's note: The HERO referenced is **Henry Kines**.*



The Georgia DOT HERO units are amazing!!! I was...traveling on I-285 E during rush hour traffic when one of my tires blew out. After managing to make my way over 4 lanes of rush hour traffic and into the median/exit ramp area, my daughters and I pulled out the manual...to try and figure out how to find all “equipment” needed to begin changing my tire (and YES my husband had shown me numerous times but of course I was in his F150 and had no idea how or where to begin). Out of nowhere, a large yellow HERO unit appeared!! Being from Savannah, I was not familiar with the HERO units but was so grateful **Mike Sprayberry** (HERO) appeared out of nowhere. He assisted in locating the jack in the “secret compartment” in cab of truck, unlocking the back unit using my ignition key, and getting spare tire from underneath truck (none of which I would have been able to easily figure out on my own). Mike was courteous, respectful and patient - just **AMAZING!** I thanked him profusely and continued on my journey - but just wanted to give GA DOT HERO units the feedback. The HERO units are definitely a service that is invaluable and Mike Sprayberry... is a great ambassador for your HERO unit. Such a positive experience in the midst of a crisis - THANKS!

K. Moore

Hello, I would like to commend one of your GDOT employees, **P. Dalenberg** #561... I was on my way home from church when my rear passenger tire went flat. I was in a horrible spot and barely had room to exit the vehicle without stepping into traffic. I was well dressed and wasn't up to changing the tire, especially in a dangerous area (I was on I-85 Southbound in DeKalb County). After waiting 30 plus minutes for AAA, P. Dalenberg showed up and positioned his vehicle safely behind mine and changed the tire for me. He even checked the pressure and put air in the spare tire! He went over and beyond the call of duty and I feel he should be commended for both his overall **professionalism** and efforts.

J. Lovett (former DeKalb County Sgt.)

Editor's note: The HERO referenced is Philip Dalenberg.

This was a winter to remember! We appreciate the acknowledgements recognizing the hard work and dedication of GDOT road crews and staff.

The **road crews** of GA DOT should be THANKED! GREAT JOB!

I lived in ATLANTA and BOSTON and know those road crews lose sleep over getting the roads in shape.

GA DOT made a SMART DECISION. If they had pre-treated at 4 am TUE, the 6 am rush hour would have worn away the treatment and left a mess that would have frozen from 9-12 noon. By then the crews were treating bridges. How many bridges & overpasses in ATL? 2000? A lot!

You guys have 1/3 the crew of Boston, but TWICE the roads. **GA DOT does great work!**

God bless from VT, Wayne

Your spokeswoman **Natalie** who appeared on so many newscasts regarding the winter storm was articulate, compassionate, and informative. It took me 10 hours to get home and I was blaming the GDOT--until I saw her explain what happened and why the trucks couldn't get through. She also seemed to be an advocate for...travelers when she said there were going to be some open conversations between the different groups to try to mitigate any future problems...Thank you for all you do--and especially thank you to Natalie (I don't know her last name--sorry!) for being a voice of reason in a sea of finger pointing. C. Stevens

Editor's note: Natalie Dale is GDOT's Media & Government Relations Specialist.

Thank you for being out there **doing what you can** for us...

S. Nicholson

More folks need to like and share your **[Facebook] page** – a great way to get the road conditions to the public...thanks for all you do!

B. Crissman

Please tell your **employees** they did a GREAT job the first ice/snow event and am sure on this one. It made me angry any criticisms from Monday morning quarter backers on how it should have been done. The men and women who have to leave their homes and family and risk their lives should be told BE SAFE AND **THANK YOU ALL**. These southern storms are more complicated than northern and part of it is the infrequency of the event. THANK YOU GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

G. Massey

This time around they have done a wonderful job. Thanks to the GDOT our **roads are safer** for those that must go to work...

K. Lane

Thank you to everyone at GDOT for **working so tirelessly** through this storm. It had not gone unnoticed.

L. Keelor

...I would like to congratulate your **entire department** for the admirable work in keeping Atlanta safe and intact during the ice storm. I know that this was a monumental task and **you delivered**....thank you.

H. Ruttenberg

The real hero is the **H.E.R.O.** Unit.

J. Holmes

Good Morning All,
Just wanted to hand out high fives all around for **Nita Birmingham!** She did a terrific job during her call-in to GOOD DAY LIVE this morning. Nita provided a much needed update on area road conditions and safe driving tips for early morning commuters. It was a **valuable service** for our viewers...

Bill Brooks
FOX 31 WFXL-TV, Albany

Editor's note: Nita Birmingham is District Communications Officer in District 4

Appreciate y'all and all the hard work you are doing today.

R. Turner

...I applaud those **GDOT maintenance** persons who... continuously and thanklessly attempt to help clear this mess.

M. Hale

...Much thanks should go to those who worked overtime to keep us all safe, including local law enforcement and fire services officers, emergency management directors, **Georgia Department of Transportation crews and officials**, and utility workers. While most of us can spend a snow day sitting in front a fire sipping hot cocoa, for them a major weather event leads to long days and extra work, and we thank them for the effort...

Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a Feb. 24 Gainesville Times editorial

...I would like to thank the men and women of the Georgia Emergency Management Center, **Georgia Department of Transportation**, the Georgia National Guard and all other public safety personnel who **worked around the clock**...

Sen. Steve Gooch

Editor's note: This is an excerpt from the Feb. 19 Dawson News. Sen. Gooch represents the 51st Congressional District and is Senate Transportation Committee chair.

Thank you for **putting your lives on the line** to make ours safer.

C. Rincon

...Georgia sees this kind of weather event MAYBE two or three times a DECADE... Plowing, salting & brining equipment is EXPENSIVE, and it would be...a waste of taxpayer monies to buy and maintain the kind of fleet necessary to 'do it like the north does,' [for] once every three or four years. DOT employees are working their butts off, trying to clear the roadways and make them safe for travel as quickly as humanely possible...they deserve kudos for **pure grit & determination!**

D. Cummins

Thanks for all you are doing! Your **efforts are not unnoticed** by the grateful.

S. Smith

Clark County DOT did an awesome job keeping main roads passable...thanks.

R. Beasley





GDOT employee leads library's transition from manual to electronic system

Stardina Wyche Holds GDOT History in her Hands

By Carla Murphy

*S*tardina Wyche's office is atypical – not the usual cubicle or standard-sized office meant to accommodate a desk, chair and storage cabinet. Rather, she has a much larger space, flanked by hundreds of thousands, if not millions of pages of documents. She is the keeper of manuals, reports, photographs and reference materials, many of which date back to the early days of the Department.

As the lone librarian for the **Roy A. Flynt Memorial Library**, Ms. Wyche has what is perhaps one of the most unique positions at GDOT – every day new information about the almost 100-year-old former Highway Department is brought to her attention.

“There is a ton of information here,” she says, noting that at least one document dates back to 1919. “What makes this job really interesting is that I am surrounded by a lot of historical information and reference materials, so I really can learn something new about the Department every day. And I do.”

In fact, the library is home to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) manuals and specifications; annual reports, reference books, highway maps; an extensive Transportation Research Board (TRB) collection; aerial photos of the highway system while under construction; and a wealth of materials that document the Department's history – all available for GDOT employees and guests to review.

“The library is a service to employees and others; and the main focus is on transportation and transportation history,” she points out.

“We get a lot of requests for information and manuals from engineers and a few from other people. But we want anyone who may need to use the library to know that it is available here and online.”

Wyche's chief responsibility is to archive and catalogue documents and photos. The process has evolved over the 30-plus years of her career as she transformed the library from a manual system to an electronic on-line system by creating a vast documentation database. Over the past decade, this process has required countless hours of data entry and scanning documents to enable worldwide internet access. And with the 100th anniversary of the Department only two years away, Wyche also serves as the Centennial Collections Coordinator for District 7, the Office of Materials and Research and metro Atlanta offices.

With a degree in Business Administration from Clark College, Wyche came to GDOT immediately after graduating in 1980. The Petersburg, Virginia native had only planned to stay for a little while and then move on. What was meant to be a “temporary stay” has turned into 31 years of service.

With retirement nearing, “Star”—as she is known to many of her co-workers— is considering a hobby that doesn't take her too far from her current job. In addition to traveling and hanging out at the beach, she is thinking about pursuing fiction and writing a book – a fitting transition from her career as the “keeper of the books” at the Georgia DOT.

Users may access the Flynt Library online at <http://69.63.217.9/G92018/OPAC/Index.aspx>.

By employees. For employees.

Employee Advocacy Team

By Liz Rothman

Employee Advocacy aims to be a catalyst for positive change for GDOT employees, said 2014 Chair Terri Lotti at an April Lunch & Learn. The **Employee Advocacy Team (EAT)** acts on behalf of employees to make improvements based on employee suggestions. The program, now in its second year, was developed at the request of Commissioner Golden.

MAKING GDOT A BETTER PLACE TO WORK WILL MAKE GDOT A PLACE THAT WORKS BETTER.

This year, the EAT created four subcommittees - each with a distinct role.

The **Policy Group**, headed by Rebecca Thigpen, works to improve the job interview and selection processes by making them more transparent. Look for surveys to be launched through the EAT webpage aimed at hiring managers and recent interviewees.

The **Innovators Group**, led by Melany Reynolds, is tasked with enhancing the employee experience. For example, the group is working with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to offer discounted yearly parks passes for GDOT employees and their families.

The **Public Outreach Group**, directed by Kelly Gwin, handles public relations to get the word out about the Employee Advocacy Team. This article, the Lunch & Learn, and improving the EAT webpage are some of their activities.

The **Suggestions Group**, headed by Sheila Smith, finds answers and solutions to the concerns, questions and suggestions that come in from employees. Topics run the gamut from compensation to tolls to personal purchase of used equipment to training.

To view current and archived questions and answers, visit the mygdot home page and click on EMPLOYEE ADVOCACY.

You can submit in a number of ways:

By Email: EmployeeAdvocacy@dot.ga.gov

By Mail: GDOT Employee Advocacy, 600 W. Peachtree St. NW, 18th floor, Atlanta, GA 30308

Suggestion box: Drop your submission in a box at district and satellite offices, and at OGC

Advocate: Provide a verbal or written submission to an EAT Advocate or Alternate

Note: You can submit anonymously (not through email, of course). Submittals containing contact info will get a direct response. Those that are sensitive are handled privately.

2014 EMPLOYEE ADVOCACY TEAM

Terri Lotti, Chair
Alma Mujkanovic, Secretary

	TEAM MEMBER	ALTERNATE
District 1	Teresa Walcott	Kevin York
District 2	Judy Shurling	Ray Spires
District 3	Mike Smith	Sheldon Minor
District 4	Van Mason	Debbie Truitt
District 5	Rebecca Thigpen	Cynthia Phillips
District 6	Kerry Bonner	Cherie Marsh
District 7	Darryl Dixon	Katie Mullins
Administration	Sheila Smith	Charles Lawrence
Construction	Bryan Gibbs	Tim Wilson
Engineering	Dave Peters	Jan Hilliard
Field Services	Gwen Dudley	
Finance	Stacey Eason	Belinda Leigh
Intermodal	Nadara Wade	Harry Boxler
Operations	Davie Biagi	Sonya Isom
Performance Management	Melany Reynolds	Alma Mujkanovic
Planning	Henry Green	Kelly Gwin

Many submittals are related to human resources; HR Deputy Director Mike Johnson serves in an advisory role.



Above & Beyond: Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence

By Julette Carter

CUSTOMER SERVICE

I-85 Jackson County Crew, District One: Jeremiah Owensby, Steve Hayes, Jr., Erik Lance, Dennis Little, Taylor Coile, James Bailey.

When falling limbs from a black walnut tree hit her windshield as she drove on Highway 53 West in early November, Sloan Jones was concerned that the large limbs that remained hanging over the roadway could be a safety hazard. Jones, a citizen of Jackson County, called District One Communications Officer Teri Pope to see what could be done to prevent a mishap for someone else. Pope took the information and called Jones later that morning to tell her that a crew would soon be out to take a look. By the following Monday evening, the limbs over the highway were gone. Needless to say, Jones was surprised about the speedy and deliberate action to eliminate a threat to drivers. The crew took responsibility for the situation, responded to the initial report, and demonstrated by their actions that employees of GDOT are here to serve the citizens of Georgia and have safety as a top priority. Jones was so impressed with the quick response and excellent customer service from the Jackson County Crew that she nominated them for the **Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service.**



I-85 Jackson County Crew with Commissioner Keith Golden and D1 DE & Director of Field Services Bayne Smith

PERFORMANCE

Daryl Williams, Environmental Compliance Assistant Manager, Office of Engineering Services

Williams helps oversee Environmental Compliance Inspections to ensure that construction projects are in compliance with GDOT, state and federal guidelines and regulations for the Stormwater Program. In August, when the Environmental Compliance Manager was out on extended leave, Williams humbly extended himself both professionally and personally to fill that role. He kept the section running smoothly and efficiently without missing a beat. His contributions benefited both the Office and the Department. Williams is a role model for any individual forced to step-up in a situation where a critical function must be carried out. His passion and dedication has helped him to consistently perform at a high level. Through it all, he maintained a positive attitude and cheerfully accepted his additional responsibilities. State Project Review Engineer Lisa Myers nominated Williams for the **Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence in Performance.**

Recognize someone doing something exceptional! The Commissioner's Commendation for Excellence recognizes Georgia DOT employees or teams in either of two categories – Customer Service or Performance. To submit a nomination, contact Customer Service Manager Julie Carter at 404.631.1835 or jucarter@dot.ga.gov.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION WINNERS

December 2013

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Barbara Thomas, Administrative Operations Coordinator I, District 4

Nora Varasse, Roadside Enhancement Assistant Coordinator, District 5

Robby Oliver, State Utilities Liaison Engineer (Districts 1,6,7 – Utilities)

I-85 Jackson County Crew, (Jeremiah Owensby, Steve Hayes, Jr., Erik Lance, Dennis Little, Taylor Coile, James Bailey), District 1

PERFORMANCE

Blake Nicholson, Assistant Area Construction Engineer, District 6, Area 4

Daryl Williams, Environmental Compliance Assistant Manager, Engineering Services

Michael Hancock, Forman, District 7, Area 2

Cynthia Walker, Utilities Contract/Pay Engineer, Utilities

Human Resources Transactions Team (Alicia Wyatt, Jackie Davis, Falisha Stewart, Melissa Nicholas, Nadine James), Human Resources/OGC



Daryl Williams with Commissioner Keith Golden

As 2013 came to a close, Georgia DOT announced the winners of the Our GDOT Challenge.

OUR GDOT Challenge Winners

By Liz Rothman

Innovator

WINNER: Area-wide Guard Rail Cleaner Crew District 4, Area 1/Valdosta
Martin Melton, Rickey Lott, Kenneth Brown, Willie Frank Griffin, James Hunter, Phillip Moorehead, Terry Mahlstadt, Maurice Foster, Marvin Tullis



D4 Guard Rail Cleaner Crew and D4 DE Joe Sheffield

To cut completion times for tasks like cleaning bridges, digging ditches and building shoulders, these innovators invented the Guard Rail Cleaner - made from recycled parts.

SECOND PLACE: Jeffery G. Fletcher, Office of Design Policy & Support

Fletcher improves surveying practices using technology and new procedures. He championed GDOT's purchase of a high definition laser scanner requiring no lane closures and no personnel in travel lanes.

Professional of the Year

WINNER: Charles Jay Strange, District 3/Right of Way

Strange negotiated a complex acquisition that avoided relocating an Interstate truck stop - saving jobs, \$500,000 in GDOT project costs, and a significant portion of the county's tax base.



Jay Strange (l) and D3 DE Thomas Howell

SECOND PLACE: Michael A. Lewis, District 3/Right-of-Way

Lewis helps property owners understand plans and the closing process for right of way acquisitions. By catching errors early, he helps GDOT avoid problems later.

Shape-Up

WINNER: Bridge to Health Highway Team (Office of Bridge Design) - Alicia Rainwater, Joe King, Cindy Pollard, Susan Beck, Eric Huibregtse, Teresa Hartle, Jenny Harris-Dunham, Thomas Lipton, Kaitlyn Rhodes, Tan Nguyen, Vo Nguyen, Doug Franks, Steve Gaston, Hooman Doroudi



Bridge to Health Highway Team and Commissioner Keith Golden

Since the Shape-Up Challenge began in January 2013, the team improved their health by walking and completing other exercise activities that convert to 33 million steps!

SECOND PLACE: Ellen G. Wright, District 2 - Training

When 8-year-old daughter Logan beat her in a fun run/walk in 2011, Wright decided it was time to act. In two years, she ran over twenty races, some of which included swimming ponds, climbing walls and jumping over fire.

Volunteerism

WINNER: Jared Hill, Office of General Support/Procurement

Hill is dedicated to children and service. Not only has he foster parented seven children, he also volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representing abused or neglected children in juvenile court proceedings and serves on the nonprofit Friends of CASA Board.



Jared Hill (r) and Commissioner Keith Golden

SECOND PLACE: Jim Pomfret, Office of Environmental Services

When daughter Maya was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) in 2003, Pomfret and his wife Jen became involved with the national non-profit CdLS Foundation, which serves people with CdLS and their families. The One Love, One Heart 5K Walk/Run, which they established in 2004, has raised over \$100,000 for the foundation. CdLS is a genetic disorder that affects all genders, races and ethnicities.



CONNECTOR

SHORTS

In the last
CONNECTOR, we
introduced Honku
- the transportation
Haiku.* Here are a few
submitted by readers.

*Buying right of way
With good plans I am driven
Serving the people*
J. Heath Brodnax, GDOT D3 Right of Way

*Tires cost money
There are pot holes on the bridge
Please fix I-20*
Tameka Z

**17 syllables in three lines written in a
5-7-5 format*

Succession Planning: Round 3

Succession Planning allows GDOT to identify highly competent, motivated employees, and prepare them for an internal applicant pool from which key management level position openings may be filled. As current leaders retire, Succession Planning helps plan for their exit by transferring critical knowledge and decision-making competence to potential new leaders.

Congratulations to the new Succession Planning class: **Patrick Allen, Larry Barnes, Chandria Brown, Paul Denard, Eric Duff, Jason Dykes, Nicolas Fields, Kelly Gwin, Krystal Harris, David Jared, Matt Needham, Robby Oliver, Melany Reynolds, Brian Robinson, Merishia Robinson, Chris Rudd, Annette Simelaro, Rebecca Thigpen, Glenn Warlick, Chet Welch**

Thanks for taking part in the 2014 Employee Survey!

The Commissioner and the Employee Survey Team thank all who got involved. Your feedback will help guide the initiatives and steps the Department will take to make GDOT a better place to work. In the upcoming months, the results of the survey will be shared with the divisions and offices. If you have suggestions or comments on how to improve future employee surveys, please send them to employeesurvey2014@gdot.ga.gov.

Preparing for GDOT's 100th birthday.



"Georgia is definitely out of the mud."
Those were the final words from a 1939 departmental history (back when Georgia Department of Transportation was called the State Highway Board of Georgia). Now, as Georgia DOT's **2016 centennial** approaches, the **Centennial Planning Committee** asks employees to share (donate or loan) historical documents, old photographs, publications, physical objects and GDOT artifacts to help provide a complete narrative showcasing the evolution from our humble beginnings to the modern transportation system we have today. Your assistance will enable the Committee to update GDOT's history and plan centennial-related events across the state.

If you or someone you know have artifacts, please contact your respective Centennial Coordinator.

Centennial Collections Coordinators (CCCs)

Metro Atlanta offices, OMR, District 7:
Stardina Wyche
swyche@dot.ga.gov
404.608.4800

District 1: **Kim Coley**
kcoley@dot.ga.gov
770.532.5530

District 2: **Zina Stephens**
zstephens@dot.ga.gov
478.357.1511

District 3: **Teresa Booker**
tbooker@dot.ga.gov
706.646.7517

District 4: **Stephanie Griner**
sgriner@dot.ga.gov
229.391.5515

District 5:
Ginger Collins
gcollins@dot.ga.gov
912.427.5713

Teresa Tootle
ttootle@dot.ga.gov
912.530.4383

Margie Sloan
msloan@dot.ga.gov
912.427.5711

District 6: **Kerry Bonner**
kbonner@dot.ga.gov
678.721.5321

The Centennial project is sponsored by the offices of Communications, Research, and Environmental Services. Watch for FGDOT's Centennial web page currently in development.

Congrats To All!

Retirees

November 1, 2013 –
April 1, 2014

Curtis J. Adams
David C. Adams
Delorise D. Anderson
Clarence Atwater
Colleen Baldwin
Rebecca Ann Barrett
Norris Cecil Baxter
Anthony C. Belcher
Donald J. Bitter
Carl S. Boodram
Warnell C. Brantley
Donna D. Brett
Devon S. Brooks
Denise Y. Brown
Robert Milton Browning
Betty Adams Carter
Cynthia D. Christian
Michael G. Cooper
Jerry Mack Cravey
Robin Laine Dallas
Robert W. Dickens
Thomas C. Durrence
Michael L. Ellington
Mark Christopher Eubanks
Tyrone Ferrell
Lister Leon Franklin
William T. Gibb
Charles M. Gordon
James F. Gordon
Willie Frank Griffin
Dimas Hall
Dale R. Hamby
Otis L. Hicks
Joseph P. Highfield
Johnny Hollis
Christopher E. Holmes
Robert Lee Jenkins
Donald J. Johnson
James Johnson Jr.
Emanuel Jones
J. Scott Kordys
Rickey Edward Lott
Harry A. Maddox
Cynthia M. Marshall
Johnny Steve Matthews

Barry David McAvoy
Keith H. McLeod
Dorothy M. Miles
Mary A. Mitchell
Robert L. Moon
Mary Delaine Morgan
Abdulvahid Mohammed
Mukhtyar Munshi
John Thomas Napier Jr.
Thomas Clinton Parker Jr.
Eric Carl Pitts
Benjamin Eugene Poppell
Timothy Scott Rader
Cedric W. Randolph
Jan Denise Ray
Richard B. Reed
Donald Ricks
Rosa Mae Roberts
W. J. Rountree
Belinda W. Rowan
Randall Hayden Rozier II
Kent Lloyd Sager
Linda G. Shivers
Shannon Foley Slaughter
Jeremiah Smith
Rick Alan Smith
George Anthony Solomon
John Stephen Solomon
Tommy A. Spikes
Angela Y. Taylor
Olivette Toomer
Jack Gregory Walker
Janis Lorraine Walker
Timmie Walker
Tommy E. Ward
William B. Whitecotton
Doris Celina Williams
Thelmon Wright
Stephen W. Wyche

Service Anniversaries

Through June 31, 2014

30 YEARS

Kenneth Lewis Cheek
George L. Dickens
Donna K. Garrison
Ricky L. Goober

Howard Gray
Karon Lamar Ivery
Harry A. Maddox
Johnny Ell McCord
Carl Wesley Mizell
Norman A. Mock
Willie C. Redding
Ronnie Sanders
William R. Singleton
Angie P. Thornton

25 YEARS

Jerry Braswell
Michael Carmichael
Carolyn Faye Carroll
Joseph F. Carter
Curtis L. Grovner
Toby N. Hammonds
George Anthony Kirkland
William B. McKinney
Donald Ricks
Kenneth E. Robinson Jr.
Stevie A. Shugart
Linda Jane Smith
Hugh B. Turnley Jr.
David Ross Wegener
Linda Mae Westcott

20 YEARS

Charlie James Armstrong
Sharmelda J. Barrow
Coby B. Carter
John Wayne Coxwell
Funke Abby Ebodaghe
Clinton B. Ford
James Lester Glisson III
Lonnie Andrews Oquinn
Marie S. Shaw
Everette Wadley Jr.
Terri Lynn Wesley
Arnita Wiley
William Douglas Wood

15 YEARS

Margaret Victoria Batts
Danielle Jayne Bentley
Andrew Brooks
Dennis L. Carter
Selena Helms

Franklin J. Lamb
Danny A. Lewis
Andrew Jackson Reed III
Corbett S. Reynolds
Ricky Clark Richardson
Rotenia Tillman
Donna B. Watson
Margaret Ann Weaver
Cornelius D. Wright

10 YEARS

Dennis Ray Barron
James Allen Barry
Phoebe Pettis Beckham
James Sinclair Belcher Jr.
Lawond Brooks
Melvin S. Cameron
Ramon Cantres
Cactress M. Carter
Larry M. Chambers
Roy D. Chester Jr.
Percy K. Combay
Gene M. Cranford III
Orren E. Davis
Sue Anne Harris Decker
Anthony Jermaine Hilson
Daniel Dwayne Holland
William D. Horton
Victor James Johnson
Brett T. Jones
Donald W. Jordan
Alexander Joseph Laffey IV
Dennis Milton Little
Garylynne J. Marshall
Darrell H. Norris Jr.
Charleston Parker Jr.
Wiley Jimmy Phillips
James Oscar Rawls
Dale Richard Rhodes Sr.
Raymond M. Sapp
Alan A. Sayler
Andrea Quinn Stramiello
William David Taylor
Brock M. Tyson
Neil J. Tyson
Joe H. Walker Jr.
Floyd Jammal Williams

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